United Nations S/2008/85

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1792 (2007) concerning Liberia, of 19 December 2007, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 1760 (2007) for a further period until 20 June 2008 to undertake the tasks set out in paragraph 5 of resolution 1792 (2007). By that resolution, the Council also requested me to reappoint the members of the Panel of Experts, and to make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support the work of the Panel.

Two of the panellists previously appointed under resolution 1760 (2007), Dimieari Von Kemedi (expert on arms and security) and Rajiva Sinha (Chairman and expert on finance), are not able to continue their service with the Panel at this time.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, I have appointed the following persons to serve on the Panel of Experts for a period ending on 20 June 2008:

Thomas R. Creal (United States of America, expert on finance)

Guy Lamb (South Africa, expert on arms and security)

Wynet V. Smith (Canada, expert on natural resources)

I have also designated Ms. Smith to serve as Coordinator of the Panel.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-23453 (E) 120208

United Nations A/62/685–S/2008/86

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda items 17 and 18

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 8 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the grave and alarming acts of violence and terrorism carried out by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip against Israel in recent days.

During the course of today alone, Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip fired no less than 22 Qassam rockets at Israel. Additionally, a mortar was fired from Gaza into southern Israel. Four Sderot residents were treated for shock, and a warehouse was damaged. In the early afternoon, five more rockets landed near the coastal area south of Ashkelon, one of which struck the grounds of Kibbutz Zikim.

Just two days ago, on Wednesday, 6 February, two young Israeli girls, ages 2 and 11, were wounded by shrapnel after a Qassam rocket slammed into a playground in Kibbutz Be'eri. The rocket narrowly missed the kindergarten building next door to the playground. Fortunately as well, the rocket was fired toward the end of the day, at a time when parents were already picking up their children and the park was beginning to empty. Had the rocket been fired only minutes earlier, the damage and bloodshed would have been far more devastating.

As we have seen recently in the incitement by Hamas leaders for Palestinian terrorists to carry out further acts of violence and terrorism, these attacks are part of a well orchestrated campaign to deliberately kill Israeli civilians and spread terrorism. Moreover, they are backed with the full support of some States in the region, in violation of their obligations under Security Council resolutions. In the light of the continuation of Palestinian terrorism, Israel will continue to defend itself and its citizens, as any other sovereign nation would, as is its right under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

08-23420 (E) 110208

I should be grateful if you would have the contents of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/62/686–S/2008/87

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 January 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 10
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 28 December 2007 from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 11 December 2007 (S/2007/744), addressed to me in my capacity as Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, in which you conveyed the invitation of the Security Council to the Peacebuilding Commission to provide advice on the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

I am pleased to inform you that, at a meeting held on 19 December 2007, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission agreed to place Guinea-Bissau on the Commission's agenda. The Commission also agreed to establish a country-specific configuration, to be chaired by Maria Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, to assist Guinea-Bissau in its peacebuilding efforts.

The Commission took note of the Security Council's request and will establish, in close contact with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau, the priorities and programme of work of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, mindful of the need to develop an integrated strategic approach to meet the challenges of peacebuilding in the country.

The Commission looks forward to informing you of its preliminary findings as soon as possible and keeping you informed of progress on its consideration of the matter.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Chairperson, Peacebuilding Commission

08-23460 (E) 110208

United Nations S/2008/88

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that, in accordance with its previous practice, the Security Council invite the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in the meeting of the Security Council, which is to be held on Tuesday, 12 February 2008, regarding children and armed conflict.

(*Signed*) Dr. Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

08-23712 (E) 120208

United Nations S/2008/89

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 December 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-23603 (E) 190208

Annex

Letter dated 30 January 2008 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 to 31 December 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Japp **de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 December 2007.

2. As at 31 December 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,002. This includes 2,357 troops from non-NATO countries.

Political situation

3. The Troika completed its mandate on 10 December 2007 shortly after the Contact Group submitted its report on the Troika-led status negotiation process to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Subsequently, the Security Council discussed the report and the situation in Kosovo at a closed-door session on 19 December 2007.

4. At their meeting in Brussels on 7 December 2007, NATO Foreign Ministers agreed that troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) would remain in Kosovo on the basis of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), unless the Security Council decided otherwise. They also renewed their commitment to maintain the national force contributions to KFOR, including reserves, at current levels and with no new caveats.

Security situation

5. On 2 December 2007, an explosion was reported in a bar in Prizren in south-western Kosovo, which injured seven people. The motive remains unclear. Authorities believe rival gangs involved in human trafficking could be behind this attack.

6. On 6 December 2007, Multinational Task Force Centre and the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) reported that a civilian bus with 40 passengers of different ethnicities had been stopped by 10 masked and armed men on the administrative boundary line. No one was harmed and the bus eventually continued on its way under police escort.

7. On 10 December 2007, a student demonstration sponsored by the Albanian Student Union group took place in downtown Pristina. There were approximately 1,800 to 2,000 participants. No incidents were reported.

8. On 18 December 2007, a Kosovo Serb demonstration took place in Mitrovica North (Multinational Task Force North). The demonstration, organized by the Serbian National Council of Northern Kosovo, was attended by approximately 2,500 participants. No incidents were reported.

9. On 21 December 2007, the former Prime Minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinal, and his associate Laji Brahimaj, were provisionally released by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to spend the holidays and New Year in Kosovo until 7 January 2008.

10. During December 2007 no incidents against KFOR were recorded. The threat level against KFOR remained low.

11. A total of 484 incidents related to drugs (5), counterfeit currency (54), smuggling (24), explosions (6), miscellaneous criminal incidents (240), illegal weapons possession (80), weapons and ammunition seizures (42) and unexploded

ordnance (33) were reported during this period. The total number of incidents has slightly increased compared to November 2007 (417).

KFOR operations

12. The overall situation in Kosovo remained calm but tense throughout December 2007. All multinational task forces continued to focus on interoperability and intelligence gathering while conducting high-visibility operations throughout Kosovo to deter any possible attempt at destabilization and to maintain the safe and secure environment. The operational reserve force battalion, provided by Germany, deployed for an additional operational rehearsal from 16 November to 16 December 2007. KFOR also conducted an operational rehearsal from 1 to 7 December 2007 for the 2008 operational reserve force battalions from Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy and for the European Union Force tactical reserves. The Commander of KFOR updated his guidance to his subordinate commanders in December, directing them to be able to react quickly, to maintain mobility and flexibility, to ensure KFOR freedom of action, to coordinate with UNMIK police and the Kosovo Police Service, and to stress the importance of the reserves.

Compliance

13. During the month of December, there was one session of the disciplinary board of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) which resulted in the dismissal of four KPC members. Two of these members are from minority communities.

Kosovo Protection Corps

14. There was no recruitment campaign in December 2007.

15. The current active personnel establishment is 2,908. There are 193 (6.63 per cent) active ethnic minority members (169 male, 24 female). The total number of ethnic minorities remains the same compared to last month. The percentage of minorities within KPC remains short of the goal established by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and there are 113 open posts left in the active personnel establishment list. The reserve list includes 2,000 positions, with 1,892 filled (including 48 ethnic minority members, which equates to 2.45 per cent).

16. Training of the KPC members continues according to plan. A joint KPC/KFOR senior leader seminar on the subject of strategic communications was conducted at KPC headquarters on 26 December 2007 with 22 participants and at the training and doctrine centre on 27 December 2007 with 20 LTC and MAJ participants. English language courses continued at the centre with 150 KPC participants.

17. During the month of December, 13 ceremonies involving 387 KPC members took place. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

18. The situation remained calm and stable despite continued political uncertainty related to Kosovo's future status. Planning for the post-resettlement period continues. KFOR remains fully prepared to deal with unrest and would respond adequately to any attempt to disrupt the safe and secure environment, regardless of where it comes from.

United Nations A/62/688–S/2008/90

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda items 17 and 18

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 11 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Even before the ink has dried on the letters I sent to you in recent days regarding Palestinian terrorism, yet another vicious and unimaginable terrorist attack has been carried out against Israeli civilians — and children, in particular.

Late Friday evening, 8 February, during a rocket barrage fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip, two brothers were seriously wounded by a Qassam rocket in their hometown of Sderot. Doctors were forced to amputate part of the left leg of one of the boys, eight-year-old Osher Tuito. His 19-year-old brother, Rami, was also badly injured in the terrorist attack. Osher, who dreamed of becoming a soccer player, does not yet know that he has lost one of his legs. He remains under total sedation so he does not suffer from the severe pain.

The dire consequences of these attacks are further impressed on us when we consider that they took place against the backdrop of the Security Council's deliberations on children and armed conflict, to be held on 12 February. This tragic terrorist attack on the eve of such a debate underscores the gravity of the Council's meeting on such a crucial issue.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council. An identical letter has been sent to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-23665 (E) 130208

United Nations S/2008/91

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 February 2008

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative, deputy and alternate representatives of Croatia on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 6 February 2008 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, stating that Mr. Neven Jurica has been appointed representative of Croatia on the Security Council, Mr. Ranko Vilović and Mr. Amir Muharemi deputy representatives, and Mr. Vice Skračić, Mr. Toma Galli, Mr. Mato Škrabalo, Mr. Mario Škunca, Mr. Ivan Mutavdžić, Ms. Lara Romano, Ms. Korana Došen and Ms. Ivana Kožar, alternate representatives.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

08-23718 (E) 120208

United Nations S/2008/92

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request, in accordance with Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider an extremely grave situation in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija, where we are witnessing the final preparatory activities for a unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, which would constitute a violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, a Member State of the United Nations, and would endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, intends to participate in this meeting of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pavle **Jevremović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-23819 (E) 120208

United Nations S/2008/93

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to support the request contained in the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to you today.

In accordance with rule 2 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, I have the further honour to request you to convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council on Thursday, 14 February 2008, to consider the dangerous developments in Kosovo (Serbia) caused by the preparatory activities of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government for a unilateral declaration of independence.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

08-23825 (E) 120208

United Nations A/62/690–S/2008/94

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 February 2008
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 7 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-23813 (E) 130208 140208

Annex to the identical letters dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 7 February 2008, inclusive

Air violations

On 2 February 2008 between 2125 and 2205 hours, an Israeli enemy helicopter circled over Lebanese territorial waters off the areas of al-Naqurah and Tyre.

Between 1915 and 2200 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the southern areas then headed north, reaching al-Na'imah. It circled over al-Na'imah and al-Damur then departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 2140 and 2230 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre. It headed north as far as Beirut, circled over the sea off Beirut and then departed over al-Naqurah.

On 3 February 2008 between 1100 and 1140, four Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, two over Rumaysh and two over Kafr Killa, heading north as far as al-Batrun. They circled between the South and al-Batrun and then departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 1915 and 2023 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh, circled over the South and then departed over Yarun.

Between 2130 and 2150 hours, an Israeli enemy helicopter circled over Lebanese territorial waters off Ra's al-Naqurah.

On 4 February 2008 between 2203 and 2358, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b, circled over areas of the South then headed north, as far as Beirut, circled between Beirut and the South and then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 5 February 2008 between 1800 and 1830 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft circled over the area of al-Naqurah.

Between 2100 and 2145 hours, an Israeli enemy helicopter circled over Lebanese territorial waters off the area of al-Naqurah.

At 2140, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, heading east. It circled over the southern areas then departed on 6 February 2008 at 0030 over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 6 February 2008 between 1655 and 1955 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre. It circled over the sea off Beirut and departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1700 and 1835 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah. It circled over the South and then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 7 February 2008 at 1055 hours, six Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, two over Rumaysh and four over al-Naqurah, heading north as far as Dahr al-Baydar. Between 1100 and 1103 hours, four other aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Batrun heading east. The 10 aircraft then circled the areas of Baalbek, al-Hirmil and Shikka. They departed at 1125 hours, six over the sea off al-Naqurah and four over Rumaysh.

Between 1135 and 1145 hours, two Israeli enemy military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa, heading north over the sea as far as Shikka before departing over the sea off Shikka.

Between 1510 and 1615 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah. It reached the area off Beirut and circled there, then departed over al-Naqurah.

Sea violations

None.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 1 February 2008 at 1100 hours, outside the town of Kafr Killa at the crossing, eight Israeli civilians operated a water pump and pumped water into Lebanese territory. The municipality of Kafr Killa worked together with the South intelligence branch to put up an earthen berm in order to prevent the water from flooding Lebanese territory.

On 2 February 2008 at 1945 hours near the technical fence opposite the Kafr Killa - al-'Adaysah highway, an Israeli enemy patrol composed of six Hummer vehicles and some 25 infantry shouted at Lebanese citizens residing next to the said road, pointing weapons at them and demanding that they enter their homes.

On 3 February 2008 at 1100 hours, outside the town of Kafr Killa at the crossing, an Israeli enemy excavator breached below the lower part of the technical fence south of the crossing, causing water to flow from within the occupied Palestinian territories into Lebanese territory.

At 1930 hours, by al-Wazzani near the pump, the Israeli enemy fired flares over the area and directed a number of rounds towards Lebanese territory. One man, Salim Qubaysi, was hit in the chest (his condition is serious). Another, 'Abdullah al-Muhammad, was hit in the hip and died instantly.

On 6 February 2008 at 2015 hours, on four successive occasions and for seconds at a time, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from Saliha, near Marun al-Ra's, towards a Lebanese Army observation post.

United Nations A/62/691–S/2008/95

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda items 16 and 20

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report entitled "The War against Azerbaijani Cultural Heritage", prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.

On the eve of the sixteenth anniversary of the Khojaly Genocide — terrible atrocities committed by the Armenian armed forces on 26 February 1992 as a result of which the town of Khojaly was burned to the ground, 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly men were mercilessly killed, 1,275 persons were taken hostage, the fate of over 150 still remains unknown — I should state that not only the territories of Azerbaijan continue to be occupied, furthermore the ceasefire is repeatedly violated by the Armenian armed forces.

The positions of the Azerbaijani armed forces were shelled 7 times during the month of January, 5 times in February, 10 times in March, 15 times in April, 17 times in May, 20 times in June, 31 times in July, 165 times in August and 127 times in September 2007. One cannot but notice the considerable increase of fire from January to September. In 2007 alone 14 soldiers of the Azerbaijani armed forces were killed and 20 were wounded.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were distributed as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16 and 20 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Permanent Representative

08-23857 (E) 190208

Annex to the letter dated 12 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The War against Azerbaijani Cultural Heritage

Azerbaijan is one of the areas of earliest human settlement with a rich historical past and diverse cultural legacy. Different rock drawings, architectural monuments, samples of arts and crafts, as well as a great number of artefacts unearthed as a result of archaeological excavations testify to the country's distant past, its vast cultural heritage.

The occupation of 20 per cent of the Azerbaijani territory, which made approximately one out of every eight people in the country an internally displaced person or refugee, has also had catastrophic consequences for the country's cultural heritage both in the occupied territories and in Armenia.

The occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts of Kalbajar, Lachyn, Gubadly, Zangilan, Jabrayil, Fuzuli and Aghdam, as well as seven villages in the district of Gazakh and the village of Karki in Nakhchyvan, which are beyond Nagorno-Karabakh and border on Armenia, with 1,891 cultural resources, comprising 738 monuments, 28 museums with more than 83,500 exhibits, 4 picture galleries, 14 memorial complexes and 1,107 cultural establishments, led to a great cultural loss for Azerbaijan.

Among these monuments one could find architectural monuments of national importance, such as the sixth century Albanian Aghoghlan cloister and the fourteenth century Malik Ajdar tomb in Lachyn, the fourth century Albanian Amaras cloister and a considerable number of Albanian temples in Khojavand, the eighteenth century Asgaran castle, fourteenth century tombs and a number of Albanian temples dating back to the Middle Ages in Khojaly, the sixth century Albanian Saint Jacob and thirteenth century Albanian Khatiravang cloisters and the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries Lekh castle in Kalbajar, the Albanian cloister of the fifth to eighth centuries in Gazakh, the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries Mirali tomb and the seventeenth century caravanserai in Fuzuli, the fourteenth century tomb in Zangilan, the seventeenth century mosque complex in Jabrayil, the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries Yukhary and Ashaghy Govharagha and Saatly mosques, caravanserais and houses in Shusha, the nineteenth century mosque in Aghdam, and archaeological sites like Garakopaktapa, Khantapa, Gunashtapa, Uzuntapa, Meynatapa and Zargartapa, residential areas of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages in Fuzuli, the residential areas of Chyragtapa and Garaghajy, of the Bronze Age, and those of Gavurgala, of the Middle Ages, and Aghdam, Imangazantapa and Gyshlag mounds of the Bronze Age in Jabrayil, rock drawings of the Bronze Age in Kalbajar, the stone box necropolis of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Khojaly, the residential area and necropolis of the Bronze Age in Sadarak, mounds of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Lachyn, a cave of the Stone Age, a mound and stone box graves of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Shusha, and the Shahri-Sharifan residential area of the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries in Zangilan.

The occupied territories of Azerbaijan were not only rich with monuments classified as being of national importance, of which but a few are listed above, but also with those of world importance, for instance the 11- and 15-arch medieval

Khudafarin bridges and Niftaly mounds of the Bronze Age in Jabrayil, Albanian medieval Ganjasar and Khudavang cloisters in Kalbajar, the fourteenth century Gutlu Musa oghlu tomb and Uzarliktapa residential area of the Bronze Age in Aghdam, the Azykh and Taghlar caves of the Paleolithic Age in Khojavand, and mounds of the Bronze and Iron Ages in Khojaly.

Apart from its wealth of architectural and archaeological monuments and its spectacularly beautiful nature, Karabakh has been home to many talents, among whom Vagif, Natavan, Nawab, Hajybayov and Bulbul deserve special mention, whose legacy, for their great contribution not only to the Azerbaijani but also to the world's cultural heritage, has widely been recognized by the international community.

The ongoing policy of deliberate destruction of this legacy following the occupation has been and continues to be an irreparable blow both to Azerbaijani culture and world civilization. As has clearly been demonstrated in the deliberate change of the cultural look of Shusha and other towns and settlements of Karabakh by destroying the monuments and changing architectural features, and making "archaeological" excavations, this Armenian policy pursues far-reaching targets of removing any sign heralding their Azerbaijani origins.

Analysis of the period of 13 years since the declaration of a ceasefire in 1994 reveals the fact that the Armenian military actions have not destroyed Azerbaijani monuments to the extent to which this was subsequently done by the Armenian authorities later.

Thus, if in the years immediately following the military operations, in Shusha town the architectural monuments, such as the Yukhary and Ashaghy Govharagha mosques with their madrasahs, the mausoleum of Vagif, and the house of Natavan and caravanserais, have been destroyed, burnt, plundered and rendered unusable; the house of Aslan Garasharov, hero of the Second World War, has been razed to the ground and three new Armenian houses were built in its place. The later period proves the intensification of the barbarism, which has left almost no Azerbaijani monument without destruction or damage.

As for other districts, the "Imarat of Panah khan" complex, mosques in Aghdam town, Abdal and Gulably villages, the tomb of Ughurlu bay and the home museum of Gurban Pirimov in the Aghdam district, fourteenth century tombs in the Khojaly district, mosques in the Bashlybel and Otagly villages, ancient cemeteries in the Moz, Keshdak and Yukhary Ayrym villages and Kalbajar town in the Kalbajar district, mosques in the Zangilan, Gyrag Mushlan, Malatkeshin, Babayly and Ikinji Aghaly villages, medieval cemeteries in the Jahangirbayli, Babayly and Sharifan villages in the Zangilan district, ancient cemeteries in the Gayaly and Mamar villages, the mosque in Mamar village in the Gubadly district, the mosque in Garygyshlag village and the ancient cemetery in Zabukh village in the Lachyn district, the mosque complex in Chalabilar village and the ancient cemetery in Khubyarly village in the Jabrayil district, mosques in Fuzuli town and the Gochahmadli, Merdmli and Garghabazar villages in the Fuzuli district, the cemeteries of the Khojavand, Akhullu, Kuropatkino, Dudukchu and Salakatin villages and the old cemetery of Tugh village in the Khojavand district, the ancient hammams in Umudlu village in the Tartar district and the cemetery of Karki village in the Sadarak district, have been destroyed, burnt down and plundered.

The Museum of History in the Kalbajar district with its unique collection of ancient coins, gold and silverware, rare and precious stones, carpets and other handicraft wares, museums in Shusha, the Lachyn Museum of History, the Aghdam Museum of History and the Bread Museum and others have also been destroyed, plundered, and their exhibits put on sale in different countries. For example, the bronze statues of the poetess Natavan, the composer Uzeyir Hajybayov, the singer and musician Bulbul would have been sold as bronze scrap metal in Georgia if the Azerbaijani Government had not bought them for $500,000 and taken them to Baku. Similarly, a silver handbag from the Lachyn Museum of History was sold at a Sotheby's auction in London for $80,000.

Acts of barbarism are accompanied by different methods of defacing the Azerbaijani cultural image of the occupied territories. Among them are large-scale construction works therein, such as, for example, the building of an Armenian church in Lachyn town, the extension of the flight line of the Khojaly airport by destroying the children's music school, library, social club and infrastructure facilities. Another widespread practice employed is the change of the architectural details of different monuments, as the Saatly mosque and Khanlyg Mukhtar caravanserai in Shusha town, as well as replacement of the Azerbaijani-Muslim elements of the monuments with alien ones, such as the Armenian cross and writings, which have been engraved on the Arabic character of the nineteenth century Mamayi spring in Shusha town.

As for the fate of the Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage in Armenia, those monuments which survived until the beginning of the conflict have since been destroyed, such as the Damirbulag and Goy mosques of Yerevan. The former was razed to the ground, while the latter has been "restored" and presented as a Persian mosque. The mosques and other Azerbaijani monuments in other places of Armenia have also shared the same fate as the above-mentioned two, together with ancient or modern Azerbaijani cemeteries and toponyms of Azerbaijani origin, which have been erased from present-day Armenia.

United Nations A/62/693–S/2008/96

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda items 17 and 18

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 11 February 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose, in my capacity as Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group in New York, the final communiqué of the Expanded Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers on the latest developments in Palestine, in particular the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. This communiqué was adopted on 3 February 2008 (see annex).

It is requested that the attached communiqué may kindly be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Farukh **Amil**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

08-23954 (E) 200208

Annex to the identical letters dated 11 February 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Final communiqué of the Expanded Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the level of Foreign Ministers on the latest developments in Palestine, in particular the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip

The Expanded Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers, meeting on 3 February 2008 (25 Muharram 1429H), at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in the city of Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Proceeding from the principles and objectives enshrined in the OIC Charter and acting in accordance with the OIC resolutions on the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

Hailing the steadfast resistance of the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli aggression and reaffirming its support of their just struggle in order to regain their inalienable and imprescriptible rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent State of Palestine with Al-Quds as its capital, and their right to a just settlement of the issue of Palestinian refugees in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

Reaffirming that the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Al-Quds, constitute one single geographical unit;

Asserting that the persistent illegal Israeli violations and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories — including the assaults on the city of Al-Quds, the excavations and settlement activities; as well as the killings, assassinations, and incursions, most particularly the latest incursions and assaults in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which have left in their trail hundreds of victims among Palestinian civilians — constitute gross violations of human rights and exacerbate the humanitarian conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories;

Noting that the blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip — including closing down the border crossings and cutting the flow of fuel supplies, food, and medicines as well as actions in the West Bank such as setting road blocks — constitutes collective punishment of the civilian population; provokes serious humanitarian repercussions; and is considered a war crime, crime against humanity and a blatant breach of international law;

Having taken cognizance of the report of the OIC Secretary-General on the grave conditions in Palestine and the blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and having listened to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine and the interventions of Their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of Delegations;

1. *Condemns* Israel for its despicable aggression on the Palestinian people and its illegal and illegitimate practices, most particularly the extrajudicial killings and assassinations, bombardment of homes and infrastructures, and the unjustifiable

blockade that Israel has imposed on the Gaza Strip as a collective punishment that comes under the category of war crimes. *Holds Israel*, the occupying force, *responsible* for the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip and asserts that these conditions are the direct result of Israel's persistent assault, closure of border crossings, and disruption of the flow of fuel, food, and medical supplies to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

2. *Expresses* its deep disappointment at the failure of the Security Council to assume its responsibility in addressing the humanitarian plight in Gaza, *calls upon* the international community to act swiftly and provide immediate protection for the Palestinian citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories and *tasks* the Islamic Group at the United Nations to pursue necessary measures to secure an adequate action by the United Nations.

3. *Welcomes* Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/S-6/L.1, adopted at its extraordinary session on 23 January 2008 on the human rights violations emanating from the Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip. *Calls* for the implementation of its provisions, especially the call to provide immediate protection for Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories, in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law.

4. *Welcomes* the initiative launched by the Secretary-General and aimed at drumming up essential support to secure the necessary humanitarian needs for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip; *expresses* its appreciation for the role assumed by civil society institutions in the Member States by lending their help to the population of the Gaza Strip; and *exhorts* them to provide greater humanitarian assistance.

5. *Urges* the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, and private financial institutions to endeavour to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in order to alleviate their suffering, which has been created by Israel's violations, including its blockade, killings, and starvation.

6. *Reiterates* its appreciation and support of the efforts deployed by the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to alleviate the Palestinian people's suffering and to find a way out of the current humanitarian crisis. The meeting *also expresses* its support for the call made by Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak for the Palestinian factions to expeditiously end their differences and resume the national dialogue on foundations that secure Palestinian national unity and serve the Palestinian people's higher interests in a way that is conducive to the reinstatement of the legitimate authority's role in the Gaza Strip as soon as possible.

7. *Welcomes* the Palestinian Authority's declaration that it was ready to assume the responsibility for operating all Gaza Strip crossings; and *calls on* the parties concerned to resume the application of internationally agreed arrangements so as to ensure the reopening of the Gaza Strip crossings, including the Rafah crossing, and so as to prevent the recurrence of the current humanitarian crisis in the future.

8. *Reaffirms* its unequivocal support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with full sovereignty over all Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and with Al-Quds as its capital. *Reiterates* the illegality of Israeli measures aimed at judaizing the city of Al-Quds and altering its

geo-demographic character as well as the illegality of the assaults and excavations being implemented within the vicinity of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

9. *Mandates* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Chairs of the Summit and Foreign Ministers Conference and Palestine, to take the necessary steps in order to contact influential international stakeholders and the United Nations with a view to lifting the blockade on the Gaza Strip and resolving the ensuing humanitarian crisis.

United Nations S/2008/97

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2008
English
Original: English/French

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 1771 (2007) and 1794 (2007), and the statements by its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Condemning the continuing illicit flow of weapons within and into the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *declaring* its determination to continue to monitor closely the implementation of the arms embargo and other measures set out by its resolutions,

Reiterating its serious concern regarding the presence of armed groups and militias in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in the provinces of North and South Kivu and the Ituri district, which perpetuate a climate of insecurity in the whole region,

Recalling its intention to review the measures set forth in resolution 1771, with a view to adjusting them, as appropriate, in the light of consolidation of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular progress in security sector reform including the integration of the armed forces and the reform of the national police, and in disarming, demobilizing, repatriating, resettling and reintegrating, as appropriate, Congolese and foreign armed groups,

Determining that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend until 31 March 2008 the measures on arms imposed by paragraph 20 of resolution 1493 (2003) as amended and expanded by paragraph 1 of resolution 1596 (2005);

2. *Decides* to extend, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, the measures on transport imposed by paragraphs 6, 7, and 10 of resolution 1596;

3. *Decides* to extend, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 13 and 15 of resolution 1596, paragraph 2 of resolution 1649 (2005), and paragraph 13 of resolution 1698 (2006);

4. *Decides* to extend, for the period specified in paragraph 1 above, the mandate of the Group of Experts referred to in paragraph 9 of resolution 1771;

5. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

08-24105 (E) 150208

United Nations S/2008/98

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2008

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), by which the Council requested me to report every 30 days on the implementation of paragraph 5 of the resolution, including on the status of financial, logistical and administrative arrangements for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and on the extent of progress by UNAMID towards achieving full operational capability. The report covers steps taken towards those goals during the month of January 2008. A separate report will be submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 1769 (2007).

II. Security situation

2. Over the past two months, the security situation in Western Darfur deteriorated significantly, as Chadian regular forces and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) launched several attacks inside Sudanese territory. The situation in Northern and Southern Darfur remained relatively stable. Tensions inside camps of internally displaced persons and carjacking incidents continued. One week after the transfer of authority from the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to UNAMID, the force faced its first armed attack.

3. Tension increased significantly along the Chad-Sudan border after approximately 74 vehicles carrying Chadian regular forces entered Western Darfur during December 2007 and linked up with JEM elements in the area of Jebel Moon (Western Darfur) late in December and early in January. A JEM-led force attacked several villages north of El Geneina in the Sirba area and threatened to attack El Geneina. The Government of the Sudan responded by reinforcing El Geneina with two additional battalions from Nyala and, by mid-January, started a ground and air military operation to push JEM north of El Geneina.

4. Simultaneously, Chadian regular forces targeted Chadian rebels in Darfur in a number of air attacks early in January. In one of the most serious incidents, on 6 January, the Chadian Air Force bombed the villages of Gokar and Wadi Rady, about 25 km south of El Geneina. Six Chadian rebels were killed and four seriously wounded. A total of 283 humanitarian staff based in the areas north and south of El Geneina that were affected by the fighting were forced to relocate to El Geneina

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and other places in Darfur, effectively halting aid to the civilian population. While many staff were able to restart projects south of El Geneina, Sudanese Armed Forces and National Security continued to refuse aid agencies access to areas currently under JEM control north of El Geneina.

5. On 30 December 2007, Government forces arrested six JEM members, including the JEM representative to the Ceasefire Commission, from the premises of the former AMIS Ceasefire Commission in the AMIS camp in El Fasher. A member of the JEM splinter faction Collective Leadership was also arrested on 13 January. The Government of the Sudan accused those arrested of having supported the JEM operations in Western Darfur. While condemning the recent military operations of JEM, UNAMID strongly urged the Sudanese authorities to release the detained rebels. On 17 January, following sustained dialogue between the mission and the Sudanese authorities, all JEM members, including a JEM representative who had been detained previously, were released.

6. Meanwhile, the situation in Northern and Southern Darfur saw a reduction in violence between the parties to the conflict during the reporting period. The ongoing internal consultations among rebel factions on the composition, structure and leadership of a united SLM/A have contributed to this relative calm. In Southern Darfur, tribal conflict and failed crop harvests in the Buram area forced up to 6,000 civilians to flee towards camps for internally displaced persons in Nyala.

7. Tensions inside camps for the displaced across Darfur remained high during the reporting period. In Northern Darfur, demonstrations driven by supporters of Abdul Wahid who object to the peace efforts have been ongoing. Tensions are further heightened by Government pressure for internally displaced persons to return to their homes, despite evidence that the security situation has not improved. Meanwhile in Western Darfur, internally displaced persons from Ardamata camp (near El Geneina) faced harassment and intimidation by armed militias who, following a disagreement over compensation for stolen animals, threatened to burn down their shelters and reportedly attacked civilians on numerous occasions.

8. Banditry and targeted attacks continued during the reporting period. During 2007, 154 vehicles of international organizations were taken, a trend that continued in 2008 with 30 vehicle hijackings including, as at 24 January, 23 fully-loaded food trucks of the World Food Programme (WFP). This has resulted in a significant reduction in the quality of humanitarian operations. There have been increasingly violent incidents. On 13 January, for example, a WFP driver was shot and killed in an attempted carjacking in El Geneina.

9. On 7 January, a UNAMID resupply convoy was shot at by Sudanese Armed Forces two km outside of Tine (Western Darfur). A Sudanese driver was injured while a diesel tanker and an armoured personnel carrier were severely damaged. A joint UNAMID-Government investigation is expected to determine the cause of the attack and identify measures to ensure that such attacks, which are counter to the stated policy of the Government of the Sudan to support UNAMID in its operations, do not happen again.

III. Mission strength

10. The top leadership of the mission is now fully deployed with the arrival in the Sudan on 18 January of the Deputy Joint Special Representative for Operations and Management. UNAMID is working with the African Union Commission and United Nations Headquarters to fill critical outstanding positions, such as the Deputy Police Commissioner for Operations, the Chief of Staff, and the Chief of Public Information.

11. On 31 January, the total strength of UNAMID was 9,126 uniformed personnel, including 7,476 military personnel, 1,510 police officers, and one formed police unit. A total of 1,256 civilians, representing 23 per cent of the authorized strength, were deployed as of that date.

IV. Force and police generation

12. Eighty per cent of the force headquarters staff positions were filled at transfer of authority (32 out of 190 staff officers required), and sector headquarters staffing, military observer posts, and liaison officer posts were filled at 80 to 90 per cent of the requirement. A large number of former AMIS officers who transitioned to UNAMID will end their tours of duty in the next few weeks. Priorities for the UNAMID military component include generating replacements for those officers, filling vacant positions and training sector headquarters staff.

13. The advance party of the Chinese Engineering Company, which deployed late in November, commenced work at the supercamp location in Nyala and will move to the site on a permanent basis early in February. In addition, mission-critical equipment for two battalions, including armoured personnel carriers, has arrived in the mission area and measures are currently being taken to register and hand over the equipment for operational use.

14. Deployment preparations (reconnaissance visits, negotiations on memorandums of understanding) were conducted by Egypt, Ethiopia and the Netherlands during the reporting period. Equipment for the main body of the Chinese Engineer Unit, the Egyptian Engineer, Signals and Transport Units, the Nigerian Level II hospital, as well as the Bangladeshi Multi-role Logistics Unit, is currently being loaded and shipped to the Sudan/Darfur. Pending arrival of the major equipment for these units at the deployment locations, there will be further personnel deployment at the end of February and the beginning of March 2008.

15. UNAMID police has absorbed 1,380 police officers from AMIS and 124 light and heavy support package personnel. Four out of 26 key police senior and specialists' posts authorized under United Nations contracts are now deployed. These include the Police Commissioner and Deputy Police Commissioner for Development.

16. Police officers have been appointed to key posts where necessary on an ad interim basis until more permanent staff have been selected and deployed and the Police Commissioner has issued general deployment orders for all UNAMID police personnel. Dissemination of information to all former AMIS police officers relating to the new service conditions following transfer of authority is ongoing and the

provision of conversion and induction training for police officers who had served in AMIS, as well as incoming UNAMID police personnel, is in process.

17. With regard to the formed police units, while reconnaissance visits by police-contributing countries, including Egypt, Indonesia, Nepal and Senegal, have been completed, the deployment of formed police units has been significantly delayed. Currently only the unit from Bangladesh is in the mission area, although the seven-week delay in the transportation of its equipment from Port Sudan to Nyala and the delay in the construction of the supercamp outside Nyala prevented the Bangladeshi unit from becoming operational before the end of January 2008.

V. Military and police activities

18. The UNAMID force headquarters is in the process of developing its operational procedures. For lack of office space at the current headquarters, force elements are split over four sites across El Fasher, which is hampering the development of cohesion and efficient working practices. Nonetheless, the co-location of police and force headquarters has led to significant progress in coordination and cooperation between the two components.

19. Reconfiguring the force to be able to meet its mandated tasks is being hampered by the slow pace of transfer of equipment from AMIS, in particular vehicles and radios, as well as the reliance on commercial Internet and Thuraya satellite telephones for command and control as well as routine operational communications. The African Union liquidation team is working closely with UNAMID to ensure the transfer of key assets.

20. Delays in the deployment of the UNAMID military and police units have limited the number, frequency and duration of patrols that could be undertaken and limited the early effect the force could demonstrate to the people of Darfur. The mission has had to focus much of its early efforts on building a firm base to ensure that UNAMID sites are secure and the mission is logistically sustainable. Nevertheless, UNAMID patrolling activities in support of the UNAMID police enabled the police to undertake firewood patrols and patrols in the more volatile camps.

21. The African Union Commission informed UNAMID on 6 January that it had received the funds required to cover the outstanding payments of mission subsistence allowance to party representatives of the Ceasefire Commission. Efforts are ongoing to complete the final payment by the end of January and remove movement representatives from UNAMID premises until the parties agree on an inclusive ceasefire regime during the ongoing political process.

22. The UNAMID police component continued to conduct outreach activities to the local community and police, engaging local representatives in camps of displaced persons, and to report and follow up on investigations by local police. Once an adequate number of officers is deployed, the police component will introduce 24-hour, seven-day patrols, which, together with the operationalized formed police unit, will enable UNAMID police to assume a proactive posture and contribute to the creation of trust and confidence with local police and the communities in Darfur.

VI. Legal arrangements

23. Negotiations between UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan on the status-of-forces agreement resumed on 14 January in Khartoum and the agreement was signed on 9 February in a ceremony attended by the Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, the Joint Special Representative, Rodolphe Adada, and members of the diplomatic community in Khartoum.

24. The United Nations and the African Union are in the process of finalizing the exchange of letters which will define the African Union-United Nations partnership with regard to UNAMID.

25. The African Union and the United Nations have signed a memorandum of understanding to extend catering services for UNAMID camps until 31 March 2008 and negotiations on other contractual arrangements are under way.

VII. Challenges to deployment

26. The deployment of UNAMID continues to face significant challenges in generating mandate-critical capabilities and securing land and clearance for goods and equipment.

27. The process of generating aviation and transportation units has not yet been successful. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations received pledges from Ethiopia for four attack helicopters, but other critical shortfalls remain. One month after transfer of authority, the mission is still short of pledges for one heavy and one medium ground transport unit, three military utility aviation units (18 helicopters in total), and additional attack helicopters to meet the full operational requirement (two attack helicopters in addition to the Ethiopian pledge). These capabilities are indispensable for the establishment of the full operational capability of UNAMID, which is required for the mission to effectively implement its mandate. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is currently evaluating options such as inter-mission transfers to address part of the aviation shortfalls.

28. On 16 and 30 January 2007, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations hosted meetings with potential troop contributors to evaluate options for providing required aviation capabilities. Some informal proposals emerged as a result of those meetings and are being pursued by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

29. On the police side, many countries that are willing to contribute formed police units do not have the logistical capabilities required to fulfil the mandated tasks. Logistical support from those countries able to provide it is critical to strengthen the capabilities of formed police unit-contributing countries.

30. Following indications from the Government of the Sudan that the Nordic unit would not be accepted, Norway and Sweden withdrew the offer early in January. The loss of that unit seriously undermines the ability of UNAMID to establish and consolidate its presence quickly in its vast area of operations.

31. At the same time, the United Nations and the African Union are working with troop- and police-contributing countries to accelerate the pace of predeployment preparations, including reconnaissance and predeployment visits, negotiations on

memorandums of understanding, and the provision of load lists, that is, final lists of equipment and materiel to be transported to the area of operations. Only five load lists have been submitted by troop contributors of the 17 currently required. Delays in the submission of load lists result in deployment delays.

32. In the meantime, a memorandum of understanding between UNAMID and the Government for land in Zallingei was finalized in mid-January. Arrangements for the allocation of land and facilities for UNAMID bases in Nyala and El Geneina have not yet been finalized. At the same time, prolonged negotiations for additional land in El Fasher to allow the expansion of the UNAMID headquarters continue. The ARC compound in El Fasher can currently accommodate only 58 individuals and 600 offices.

33. In mid-January, the Sudanese Civil Aviation Authority provided clearance and certification for 12 UNAMID helicopters. Clearance for 12 additional United Nations-contracted helicopters is outstanding.

34. Customs clearance of UNAMID cargo continues to cause delays and pressure on UNAMID. Four Nigerian armoured personnel carriers that were impounded by National Security at Nyala airport were released late in January after being held for four weeks at the airport. The UNAMID accoutrements arrived in Khartoum in November 2007, but clearance for the release of those items was granted only in the week of 21 January.

35. The Government's cooperation is also required in extending visas for the contractors currently providing services to UNAMID troops in Darfur until a new contractor is in place. The bidding process for the new contract is already under way and will be finalized within the shortest possible time.

VIII. Financial arrangements

36. The General Assembly, by its resolution 62/232 of 22 December 2007, authorized the establishment of a special account for UNAMID and appropriated the amount of $1,275.7 million for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, an equivalent of $106.3 million per month, for its establishment.

37. As at 30 November 2007, the total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $2,964.9 million.

IX. Peace negotiations

38. Since the launch of the Darfur peace talks in Sirte on 27 October, my Special Envoy, Jan Eliasson, and his African Union counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim, have continued to consult with the parties to prepare for the substantive phase of negotiations. They conducted several visits to the Sudan to meet with representatives of the Government and the non-signatory movements, as well as with members of civil society. They also held consultations with the four regional partner countries (Chad, Egypt, Eritrea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) in Eritrea and Egypt.

39. Efforts by the non-signatory movements to unify their political structures and military command have intensified since the opening of the talks. These efforts have

been conducted in Darfur and also in Juba under the auspices of SPLM. The movements have now coalesced around five major groupings: SLM/A-Unity, SLM/A-Abdul Wahid, SLM/A-Abdul Shafie, JEM-Khalil Ibrahim and the United Resistance Front (URF). Consultations are ongoing among some of those groups to agree on common positions and a common delegation for the talks. The Joint Mediation Support Team is actively engaged with those groups to assist them in this regard.

40. During a visit of the Special Envoys in January 2008, two of the five major movement groupings (URF and SLM/A-Unity) expressed their readiness to enter pre-negotiation talks under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union. The Special Envoys are consulting with representatives of SLM/A-Abdul Shafie, JEM-Khalil Ibrahim and SLM/A-Abdul Wahid in an effort to obtain a similar commitment to the political process.

41. In the coming weeks, the mediation will continue to assist the movements in their preparations, including consultations on various substantive issues (security, power-sharing, wealth-sharing, land and humanitarian issues). The Joint Mediation Support Team is also continuing its work with UNAMID and the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue to set up civil society advisory forums. The forums will serve as the platform for engagement between the mediation and civil society organizations, internally displaced persons and native administration/traditional leaders.

42. The African Union and the United Nations are also seized of the need to appoint a Joint United Nations-African Union Chief Mediator who will be based in the Sudan full time to support the work of the Special Envoys. Selection for this critical function is being finalized together with the African Union.

43. The resolution of the crisis between the National Congress Party and SPLM bodes well for the representation of the Government of National Unity at the substantive negotiations. The format for the participation of Minni Minnawi, who is a signatory of the Darfur Peace Agreement, remains unresolved, however. The Special Envoys continue to engage all parties to resolve this issue.

X. Observations

44. I remain extremely concerned by the security situation on the ground. Humanitarian conditions and access to civilians in need of assistance have been severely undermined by recent hostilities between Government and JEM-Khalil Ibrahim forces in Western Darfur and the continued build-up of their forces in the area. In this regard, I condemn in the strongest possible terms the attacks on 8 February on civilians in the Western Darfur towns of Abu Suruj, Sirba and Seleia, which have caused an estimated 200 casualties and have led over 10,000 civilians to flee their homes and seek refuge across the border in Chad. Such brutal attacks on civilian towns, including aerial bombardments, represent grave violations of international humanitarian law and undermine prospects for peace and reconciliation.

45. In the light of the security conditions on the ground, the most urgent priority in Darfur is the establishment of a cessation of hostilities, with effective mechanisms for monitoring compliance and violations. To this end, I urge the Government and all parties to cooperate fully with the efforts of the Special Envoys to convene

negotiations as soon as possible. I reiterate my call on all parties to refrain from the use of force and to come to the negotiating table.

46. The situation in Chad and the deteriorating relations between the Sudan and Chad are also sources of grave concern and a serious impediment to a political settlement of the Darfur crisis. Normalization of the bilateral relationship is essential to the success of the peace process in Darfur and to the long-term prospect for peace in both countries. I condemn cross-border attacks and urge both countries to respect each other's territorial sovereignty and implement existing agreements of non-aggression.

47. I discussed the major outstanding issues on UNAMID deployment with President Al-Bashir on the sidelines of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa on 31 January. With respect to the critical issue of the composition of the force, and the list of troop-contributing countries sent by the United Nations and the African Union to the Government of the Sudan on 2 October 2007, the President's response was not definitive. While the African Union and the United Nations are committed to continuing these discussions with the Government of the Sudan, the primary objective of the two organizations remains to deploy a balanced and impartial force, with the required capabilities and readiness to deploy in a timely manner. We have also sought to assemble a force which would unquestionably meet the "African character" criteria referred to in resolution 1769 (2007). Troop-contributing countries now require urgent confirmation from the Government of the Sudan that their contributions to UNAMID are welcome. The speed of UNAMID deployment depends critically on this issue being resolved as soon as possible.

48. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations visited the region from 21 to 29 January in order to hold discussions with Government officials on the outstanding issues related to the deployment of UNAMID, and to survey the conditions under which the operation is deploying. On 27 January, the Under-Secretary-General travelled to Addis Ababa in order to meet, together with the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Said Djinnit, with the Sudanese Under-Secretary of State, Mutrif Siddiq, to discuss outstanding issues related to UNAMID. The meeting confirmed the need for continuing and enhanced cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations and the Government with respect to the deployment of UNAMID.

49. The visit of the Under-Secretary-General to the mission confirmed the tremendous challenges that the mission faces in providing even a modest level of protection to civilians in Darfur. This is due to a number of factors, including the slow pace with which UNAMID military and police units are arriving in Darfur. The mission will not be in a position to effectively fulfil its mandate or meet the tremendous expectations of Darfur's civilians with the meagre human and material resources currently in the mission area.

50. We need to urgently demonstrate to the conflict-affected population of Darfur that UNAMID will bring a material improvement to their daily lives, or risk losing their confidence at this critical juncture in the life of the mission. To this end, I appeal to all UNAMID troop and police contributors to expedite the deployment of the units and assets that they have pledged to the Operation. I also urge Member States to provide the outstanding enabling units, including air assets, in order to permit UNAMID to achieve full operating capability.

51. In moving forward, it will also be essential for the Government to work with the African Union and the United Nations to facilitate the deployment of the mission and ensure the removal of impediments to the operations of UNAMID. I welcome, in this regard, the signing of the UNAMID status-of-forces agreement on 9 February and I look forward to the implementation of the agreement. Meanwhile, however, our efforts to support the implementation of resolution 1769 (2007) and help to end the suffering of millions of civilians in the region cannot succeed unless all parties to the conflict lay down their weapons and commit themselves to the path of dialogue. I urge them to do so without further delay.

United Nations S/2008/99

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I attach for your attention a letter dated 4 February 2008 from Judge Fausto Pocar, President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (see annex). President Pocar gives further explanation of the request set out in his letters of 12 December 2007 (S/2007/788) and 14 January 2008 (S/2008/44) concerning the appointment of additional ad litem judges to enable the Tribunal to start conducting new trials in furtherance of the Tribunal's completion strategy.

I would be grateful if you could draw President Pocar's letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-24192 (E) 190208

Annex

Letter dated 4 February 2008 from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

I refer to my letter of 14 January 2008, which was circulated to the members of the Security Council under cover of your letter to the President of the Security Council dated 22 January 2008. That letter clarified an earlier letter dated 12 December 2007, which was circulated to members of the Security Council under cover of your letter to the President of the Security Council dated 31 December 2007. In both of those letters, I had the honour of referring to the 116th plenary meeting of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on 24 August 2005, during which 27 ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia were elected for a term of four years. By virtue of that resolution and pursuant to Security Council resolution 1329 (2000), I advised that I would be requesting the appointment of additional ad litem judges in order to allow the Tribunal to start two new trials. One of those trials is currently scheduled to commence on 27 February 2008, and the other on 7 March 2008.

In my previous letters I explained that these additional appointments were necessary for the Tribunal to achieve our objectives within the completion strategy and to ensure the right to a fair and expeditious trial, but that they would also amount to a temporary increase of the number of ad litem judges from the maximum of 12 at any one time, as established by article 12 (1) of the statute of the International Tribunal. I further advised that should you be willing to seek an authorization from the Security Council for the assignment of these additional ad litem judges, the number of ad litem judges would most likely return to the statutory maximum of 12 by September 2008, when the close of the Tribunal's first multi-accused case is scheduled. In total, I am seeking authorization to appoint on a temporary basis a maximum of 16 ad litem judges. However, I intend to try to keep the increase to a maximum of 15 at any one time.

While I can reasonably predict that the number of ad litem judges will return to the statutory maximum of 12 by September 2008, there are a number of unforeseen factors that can intervene to delay a trial, such as illness of an accused, which are not reasonably within my control. Upon this basis, I consider it would be prudent not to specify a precise time at which the Tribunal will return to its statutory maximum of 12 ad litem judges.

Further, it is my intention to assign new ad litem judges to more than one case, in accordance with my past practice, which will see the number of ad litem judges fall below the statutory maximum of 12 towards the end of 2008, providing unforeseen circumstances do not hinder the currently anticipated progress of the Tribunal's trials. I note that this practice of assigning ad litem judges to more than one trial at a time allowed the Tribunal to operate at maximum capacity with only 10 ad litem judges for a substantial period during 2006-2007.

(*Signed*) Fausto **Pocar**
President

United Nations S/2008/100

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 15 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, concerning the relocation of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24334 (E) 190208

Annex to the letter dated 15 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement on the relocation of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

15 February 2008

In the past few days, the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNMEE officials based in Ethiopia have been issuing a string of attributed and anonymous statements both distorting the reality regarding the status of UNMEE in the country and levelling unwarranted accusations against Eritrea.

The Government of Eritrea again wishes to underline the following salient points so as to set the record straight:

1. The critical legal and moral obligations of the United Nations, including that of the Office of the Secretary-General, must remain the maintenance of regional peace and security through respect of the rule of law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. In this respect, Ethiopia's occupation of Eritrean territories in violation of the Charter and the substantive provisions of the Algiers Peace Agreement cannot be excused or tolerated under any pretext. The Government of Eritrea has made numerous representations to the Security Council, including to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, on this account since the end of November last year, when the Boundary Commission concluded its final demarcation decision and terminated its operations. Sadly, instead of seriously and properly addressing the kernel of the problem, the Office of the Secretary-General appears to have chosen to dwell on peripheral matters and to accuse Eritrea unjustifiably. This position is not tenable or acceptable.

2. The oft-repeated insinuation of looming "danger to the lives of UNMEE troops in Eritrea" is unfounded and perhaps designed to cover up the failure of the United Nations to address the fundamental problem cited above. Furthermore, it constitutes a disservice to the well-known hospitality that the people and Government of Eritrea have accorded to UNMEE since its deployment in the country in 2000.

3. The Government of Eritrea cannot discuss or acquiesce in "temporary relocation" or some other new "arrangement" that is at variance with the provisions of the Algiers Peace Agreement. The mandate as well as the circumstances and modalities of the deployment of UNMEE and the termination of its functions are indeed explicitly stipulated in the Algiers Agreement.

4. The Government of Eritrea again calls on the United Nations Security Council to redress the situation and ensure the removal of the Ethiopian occupation of Eritrean territories, which is in breach of the Algiers Peace Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations.

United Nations A/62/699–S/2008/101

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
15 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 22
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 14 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 February 2008, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24218 (E) 200208

Annex to the letter dated 14 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 7 February 2008 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/62/683-S/2008/83), which yet again contains well-known allegations of violations of "international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus", and to bring to your kind attention the following.

As stated in our previous communications addressed to you, habitually repeated allegations by the Greek Cypriot side of so-called "airspace violations" are totally unfounded and are rejected in toto by our authorities. The present allegations do not merit a detailed reply as they are of a similar nature. However, I wish to emphasize, once again, that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State. The Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say over flights within the national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. I also deem it imperative to point out, once again, that the attitude demonstrated by the Greek Cypriot representatives in their constant repetition of false claims is nothing more than rhetoric, which unfortunately wastes the precious time and energy of the international community. I would also like to reiterate our call to the Greek Cypriot side that it should abandon its counterproductive policies and instead concentrate on taking concrete steps towards building trust and confidence between the two peoples on the island, which would also be in line with your latest report on the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP (S/2007/699 and Corr.1), where you underlined the significance of the endeavour regarding the lifting of the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/62/698–S/2008/102

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a position paper from the Lebanese Government, prepared in anticipation of the periodic review of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the position paper were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24494 (E) 030308

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Lebanese Government position paper on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

15 February 2008

In anticipation of the periodic review of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), the Lebanese position on the outstanding key elements is as follows:

1. Lebanon remains entirely committed to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and abides by its obligations under it. Lebanon looks forward to the achievement of serious progress on the remaining elements of the said resolution and to the full abiding by Israel by its articles.

2. The cooperation between the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and UNIFIL continues to be strengthened through coordinating control checkpoints along the Litani River and in the UNIFIL area of operation, where the situation remains relatively calm.

3. Since the last review of the said resolution, LAF recorded that the Israeli forces have persistently committed 247 air, 27 maritime and 118 land violations. (Violations as provided by LAF covering the period from 8 October 2007 to 7 February 2008 are listed in previous letters from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon.[a]) Those violations are becoming systematic breaches of the Blue Line and resolution 1701 (2006), especially on land; Israel has repeatedly infiltrated Lebanese soil violating the Blue Line to kidnap Lebanese citizens, be it in the Shaba'a area by kidnapping harmless shepherds — Fadi Abdul Al was kidnapped on 7 January 2008 and released on 8 January — or in the Ghajar village vicinity. Those incidents escalated on 3 February, when the Israeli army shot and killed Abdullah Muhammad and injured Salim Qubaysi outside the Ghajar village on the Lebanese side.

4. On Ghajar, our position remains clear — Israel should withdraw immediately and with no prior condition from the northern part of Ghajar in conformity with resolution 1701 (2006). Bearing in mind the need to address the humanitarian situation in Ghajar, the Lebanese Government proposed a solution, namely that the Israeli army fully withdraws from the Lebanese side of Ghajar and that UNIFIL takes over the administrative and humanitarian responsibilities, until such time as the Lebanese army can deploy in the liberated area. In the meantime, LAF will keep a liaison officer in the UNIFIL position in the village. However, Israel continues to delay reaching a solution, thus maintaining a precarious situation which might lead to further escalation. The incidents which took place on 3 February along the Ghajar village border on Lebanese soil, in which Israel shot

[a] A/62/495-S/2007/620, A/62/514-S/2007/639, A/62/527-S/2007/655, A/62/526-S/2007/654, A/62/545-S/2007/668, A/62/558-S/2007/696, A/62/568-S/2007/709, A/62/570-S/2007/717, A/62/577-S/2007/727, A/62/630-S/2008/4, A/62/634-S/2008/9, A/62/635-S/2008/11, A/62/637-S/2008/13, A/62/646-S/2008/22, A/62/656-S/2008/30, A/62/664-S/2008/46, A/62/675-S/2008/74, A/62/678-S/2008/78 and A/62/690-S/2008/94.

Lebanese citizens, constitute a clear example. Not only is Israel challenging Lebanese sovereignty and security, but it is also bluntly keeping UNIFIL from executing its duty. On 6 February, the Israeli army confronted Spanish troops when they were trying to mend the wire on the Lebanese side of Ghajar — to prevent any recurrence of violence or possible escalation due to the illegal movement of people or smugglers — and prevented them from doing so. (It is to be noted in this context that the Israeli army has not returned to date two Lebanese citizens, Khaled and Ali Al-Muhammad, who were kidnapped in the Ghajar area on 9 November 2007.)

5. While we reaffirm that the internationally recognized borders of Lebanon in the south are as referred to in the 1949 Armistice Agreement, and as reiterated in paragraph 5 of resolution 1701 (2006), we continue to welcome the fact that LAF and UNIFIL began to implement the agreement to mark the Blue Line; however, the Israeli Army is not being totally cooperative with this marking effort and threatens to jeopardize the whole process by tying the agreement on one mark to the agreement on another.

6. On the environmental front, Israel has been repeatedly pumping accumulated rain water into the Lebanese village of Kafr Killa, thereby damaging the soil and olive trees. It refuses to cooperate with the mediation of UNIFIL to find a temporary solution for this problem. In addition to the damage caused to the land, such environmental infringements also constitute a threat to stability on the border, as the inhabitants are driven to protest for their agricultural losses.

7. Tripartite meetings which are held periodically remain the appropriate venue to address the issue of demarcating the Blue Line and dealing with all tensions. However, the Israeli army does not resort to liaison and coordination arrangements between the three parties to solve problems and instead acts unilaterally on the ground. Moreover, it uses the tripartite meetings to make serious threats on the record, such as threatening to bombard civilian targets in the future under the pretext that those targets are hiding military installations. In this context we reiterate that violations to our territorial sovereignty cannot be justified under any pretext, including the enforcement of the arms embargo according to resolution 1701 (2006). The said resolution did not commission Israel with this task. Furthermore, we repeatedly asked that any information concerning the illegal movement of arms or personnel be shared through UNIFIL with LAF so that both will verify it and take the appropriate measures in this regard. Despite our stated position, the Israelis refuse to submit such information and prefer to build unsubstantiated impressions in the media instead of having it verified by LAF and UNIFIL on the ground. In the few instances when such alleged evidence was shared with UNIFIL, it was done too late. LAF and UNIFIL checked the specified locations, and all turned out to be civilian sanitary facilities and constructions. In the light of the last Winograd report, which admitted Israel was preparing for a new war, we request that such threats be taken seriously by the international community and that Israel be held responsible and reminded of its strict obligation to respect the territorial integrity of Lebanon and the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular 1701 (2006).

8. Concerning the two Katyusha rockets which fell on the Shlomi settlement in the early morning of 8 January 2008, it has not been proved to date that they were launched from Lebanese territory. LAF and UNIFIL searched the border region immediately after the incident over several days and carried out all the

necessary investigations. No proof of such a launching was found. LAF remain vigilant and always ready to cooperate with UNIFIL in this context.

9. On the question of the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons, we continue to insist that these detentions are a breach of the basic rules of international law and that they be released immediately and unconditionally. As for the Israeli soldiers abducted on 12 July 2006, the Lebanese Government reiterates that it has no knowledge of their status or whereabouts and remains ready to cooperate with the Secretary-General, who is dealing with this issue, whenever he may deem it appropriate to do so.

10. The Israeli Army pounded Lebanon with millions of cluster bombs, contaminating an estimated area of over 38 million square metres. Despite the joint efforts of the Lebanese armed forces, 16 UNIFIL teams and 61 United Nations contractors, the task ahead to clear and demine more then 1 million cluster bombs constitutes a real challenge. We request that Israel gives to the United Nations, without any further delay, the maps which indicate where it dropped the cluster bombs. Those maps need to be specific and not general, as approximate information does not serve the purpose of determining the coordinates of those bombs. Cluster bombs remain a continuing threat to the civilian population in the south and represent a humanitarian crime for which Israel will have to bear responsibility and pay compensation to Lebanon.

11. Israel claims to have submitted all maps related to landmines laid in Lebanon prior to its withdrawal in 2000. It has been agreed in the tripartite meetings that any further discoveries of landmines will be brought to the attention of this venue and that the Israeli Army will submit related maps if in their possession.

12. The continued Israeli occupation of the Shaba'a Farms constitutes a continuing threat to stability and security along the border and a violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). While taking note of the provisional geographical definition presented in the last interim report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), we urge the Secretary-General to start a long-due diplomatic process based on our suggestion in the Seven-Point Plan that this area be placed under provisional United Nations custodianship after the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces, and until the border demarcation between Lebanon and Syria is possible.

13. The control of the borders is a national security interest for Lebanon. The Lebanese competent authorities adopted an integrated strategy to enhance their capabilities in controlling the border from the Lebanese side and are maintaining a high level of vigilance against the illegal movements of arms and materiel. Further technical and logistic support is needed to enhance their capabilities in the fulfilment of their tasks. The Lebanese Government continues to implement a pilot project in the northern part of the border in close cooperation with the German authorities, with the aim of expanding it along the border from the Lebanese side. This project is progressing well. In this context, the Lebanese Government reiterates that the control of the northern and eastern borders is a responsibility shared by both Syria and Lebanon, pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 1701 (2006). Therefore, it reiterates the need to establish cooperation with Syrian counterparts, in particular at the operational level, in a joint effort to secure the border and prevent illegal cross-border activities. In this context, we request again that any information about the illegal smuggling of arms or persons in the possession of any third country be

shared with us directly if possible, or through the United Nations. Unsubstantiated allegations of illicit movements across the border serve no useful purpose.

14. We consider that, based on the important measures taken by the Lebanese Government and LAF to extend their authority throughout Lebanese territory and to guarantee peace and stability, it is essential to move from the precarious situation of the cessation of hostilities to a permanent ceasefire.

15. On the economic front, we reiterate the call upon the international community in resolution 1701 (2006) to consider further assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In that context, we urge the States participating in the conferences of Stockholm and Paris III to fulfil their pledges.

United Nations S/2008/103

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 17 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request that, in accordance with Article 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, an emergency meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations to consider the unilateral declaration of the independence of the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija by the Provisional institution of Self-Government in Prîstina in violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia, a member-State of the United Nations.

It would be appreciated if the format of the meeting were to be public.

(*Signed*) Pavle **Jevremović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24240 (E) 170208

United Nations S/2008/104

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 17 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to support the request contained in the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to Your Excellency today for an emergency public meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations to consider the unilateral declaration of the independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-government of the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija in violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia.

In accordance with Rule 2 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council I have furthermore the honour to request you to convene such emergency public meeting of the Security Council in the afternoon of Monday, 18 February 2008, in view of the dangerous situation with grave damaging consequences for peace and security in the Balkans, norms and principles of international law and, in particular, of the United Nations Charter.

I would be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24246 (E) 170208

United Nations S/2008/105

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Presidency of the European Union, I have the honour to draw your attention to the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Kosovo and on Western Balkans, adopted in Brussels on 18 February 2008.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council of the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sanja **Štiglic**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-24268 (E) 180208

Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Kosovo

Brussels, 18 February 2008

On 17 February 2008 the Kosovo Assembly adopted a resolution which declares Kosovo to be independent. The Council takes note that the resolution commits Kosovo to the principles of democracy and equality of all its citizens, the protection of the Serb and other minorities, the protection of the cultural and religious heritage and international supervision. The Council welcomes the continued presence of the international community based on UN Security Council resolution 1244.

The Council notes that Member States will decide, in accordance with national practice and international law, on their relations with Kosovo.

The Council recalls the European Union's longstanding commitment to the stability of the Western Balkans region. The Council reiterates the European Union's readiness to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region, and recalls the European Union's commitments contained in the conclusions of the European Council of 14 December 2007, as well as the agreement to Joint Actions establishing an ESDP Police and Rule of Law mission and appointing an EU Special Representative in Kosovo. The European Union will continue to cooperate with the UN, KFOR, OSCE and other international actors in order to preserve stability in the region.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to fully and effectively support the European perspective for the Western Balkans. It asks the Commission to use community instruments to promote economic and political development and to propose to the broader region concrete measures in order to advance in that direction.

The Council reiterates the EU's adherence to the principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, inter alia the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and all UN Security Council resolutions. It underlines its conviction that in view of the conflict of the 1990s and the extended period of international administration under SCR 1244, Kosovo constitutes a sui generis case which does not call into question these principles and resolutions.

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Western Balkans

Brussels, 18 February 2008

The Council condemned recent acts of violence in Belgrade, Mitrovica and other places, in particular against foreign diplomatic missions and urged respective authorities to ensure security and safety of the EU citizens and their property. The Council called on Belgrade and Pristina to respect previous commitments to refrain from any activities or statements which might endanger the security situation.

United Nations S/2008/105*

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Presidency of the European Union, I have the honour to draw your attention to the conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Kosovo and on the Western Balkans, adopted in Brussels on 18 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sanja **Štiglic**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

08-24268* (E) 200208

Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Kosovo

18 February 2008

On 17 February 2008 the Kosovo Assembly adopted a resolution which declares Kosovo to be independent. The Council takes note that the resolution commits Kosovo to the principles of democracy and equality of all its citizens, the protection of the Serb and other minorities, the protection of the cultural and religious heritage and international supervision. The Council welcomes the continued presence of the international community based on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The Council notes that Member States will decide, in accordance with national practice and international law, on their relations with Kosovo.

The Council recalls the European Union's longstanding commitment to the stability of the Western Balkans region. The Council reiterates the European Union's readiness to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region, and recalls the European Union's commitments contained in the conclusions of the European Council of 14 December 2007, as well as the agreement on Joint Action establishing a police and rule of law mission under the European Security and Defence Policy and appointing a European Union Special Representative in Kosovo. The European Union will continue to cooperate with the United Nations, KFOR, OSCE and other international actors in order to preserve stability in the region.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to fully and effectively support the European perspective for the Western Balkans. It asks the Commission to use community instruments to promote economic and political development and to propose to the broader region concrete measures to advance in that direction.

The Council reiterates the European Union's adherence to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, inter alia the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and all Security Council resolutions. It underlines its conviction that, in view of the conflict of the 1990s and the extended period of international administration under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), Kosovo constitutes a sui generis case which does not call into question these principles and resolutions.

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on the Western Balkans

18 February 2008

The Council condemned recent acts of violence in Belgrade, Mitrovica and other places, in particular against foreign diplomatic missions, and urged the respective authorities to ensure the security and safety of European Union citizens and their property. The Council called on Belgrade and Pristina to respect previous commitments to refrain from any activities or statements which might endanger the security situation.

United Nations S/2008/106

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have received today the attached letter from Mr. Javier Solana, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, informing me of the decision by the European Union to deploy a rule of law mission to Kosovo within the framework provided by resolution 1244 (1999), and of the decision by the European Union to appoint a European Union Special Representative for Kosovo.

I should be grateful if you would bring this document to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-24262 (E) 180208

Annex

Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: French]

I have the honour to inform you that, on 4 February, the Council of the European Union, on the basis of the conclusions of the European Council of 14 December, adopted the Joint Action and the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) enabling the deployment of the EULEX operation in Kosovo. This operation, relating to the rule of law (essentially police and justice), aims to ensure the maintenance of an international civilian presence within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and to contribute as effectively as possible to the maintenance of regional peace and security. At the same time, the European Union appointed Mr. Pieter Feith as European Union Special Representative in Kosovo, inter alia to ensure coordination of the European Union activities on the ground. The EULEX Operational Plan (OPLAN) was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 15 February.

The European Union is accordingly acting in conformity with its regional responsibilities and is aiming to promote the European perspective in the Western Balkans.

I undertake, Sir, to keep you regularly informed of the implementation of these decisions, to enable you to discharge your responsibilities under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and to ensure close cooperation with UNMIK.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

United Nations S/2008/106*

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have received today the attached letter from Mr. Javier Solana, European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, informing me of the decision by the European Union to deploy a rule of law mission to Kosovo within the framework provided by resolution 1244 (1999), and of the decision by the European Union to appoint a European Union Special Representative for Kosovo.

I should be grateful if you would bring this document to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

* Reissued for technical reasons.

08-24262* (E) 200208

Annex

Letter dated 18 February 2008 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: French]

I have the honour to inform you that, on 4 February, the Council of the European Union, on the basis of the conclusions of the European Council of 14 December, adopted the Joint Action and the concept of operations enabling the deployment of the European Union operation in Kosovo. This operation, relating to the rule of law (essentially police and justice), aims to ensure the maintenance of an international civilian presence within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and to contribute as effectively as possible to the maintenance of regional peace and security. At the same time, the European Union appointed Mr. Pieter Feith as European Union Special Representative in Kosovo, inter alia to ensure coordination of the European Union activities on the ground. The operational plan for the mission was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 15 February.

The European Union is accordingly acting in conformity with its regional responsibilities and is aiming to promote the European perspective in the Western Balkans.

I undertake, Sir, to keep you regularly informed of the implementation of these decisions, to enable you to discharge your responsibilities under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and to ensure close cooperation with UNMIK.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

United Nations S/2008/107

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2008

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1581 (2005) of 18 January 2005, 1597 (2005) of 20 April 2005, 1613 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1629 (2005) of 30 September 2005, 1660 (2006) of 28 February 2006 and 1668 (2006) of 10 April 2006,

Taking note of the letters to the President of the Security Council from the Secretary-General dated 31 December 2007, 22 January 2008 and 8 February 2008,

Having considered the proposal made by the President of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (the International Tribunal) that the Secretary-General be authorized, within existing resources, to appoint additional ad litem Judges upon request of the President of the International Tribunal notwithstanding that their number will from time to time temporarily exceed the maximum of twelve provided under article 12 (1) of the Statute to a maximum of sixteen at any one time, returning to a maximum of twelve by 31 December 2008, to enable the International Tribunal to conduct additional trials once one or more of the permanent Judges of the International Tribunal become available,

Recalling that resolution 1503 (2003) of 28 August 2003 called upon the International Tribunal to take all possible measures to complete all trial activities at first instance by the end of 2008 and to complete all work in 2010 (the International Tribunal's completion strategy), and that resolution 1534 (2004) of 26 March 2004 emphasized the importance of fully implementing the International Tribunal's completion strategy,

Convinced of the advisability of allowing the Secretary-General to appoint additional ad litem Judges to the twelve ad litem Judges authorized by the Statute, as a temporary measure to enable the International Tribunal to conduct additional trials as soon as possible in order to meet completion strategy objectives,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides*, therefore, that the Secretary-General may appoint, within existing resources, additional ad litem Judges upon request of the President of the International Tribunal in order to conduct additional trials, notwithstanding the fact that the total number of ad litem Judges appointed to the Chambers will from time to time temporarily exceed the maximum of twelve provided for in article 12 (1) of the Statute of the International Tribunal, to a maximum of sixteen at any one time, returning to a maximum of twelve by 31 December 2008;

2. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

08-24648 (E) 200208